

Legal Notice

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has received a request for a partial bond release from Golden Sunlight Mine, Inc. (GSM). DEQ is also conducting a five year comprehensive bond review for the Golden Sunlight Mine. The Golden Sunlight Mine is located in Jefferson County approximately 5 miles northeast of Whitehall, MT in Sections 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 of Township 2 North, Range 3 West; Section 4, 5 and 6 in Township 1 North, Range 3 West and Sections 1, 13, 24, 25 and 36 in Township 2 North, Range 4 West. GSM operates the mine under Operating Permit No. 00065.

GSM has requested bond release for the reclamation of waste rock dump areas (North Intra-Dump, East Intra-Dump, South Intra-Dump, Northeast Dump and Buttress Dump), including the placement of growth media and seeding. The reclaimed areas total 367.8 acres. DEQ has inspected the reclamation and believes bond release is appropriate. DEQ is proposing a partial bond release of \$9,783,031.

Under Section 82-4-338(5), MCA, DEQ may not release or decrease a bond until the public has been provided an opportunity for a hearing and a hearing has been held if requested. **Requests for a hearing on DEQ's proposed bond release must be received by DEQ no later than November 4, 2016.**

In regard to the five year comprehensive bond review, DEQ has determined that the current bonding level does not represent the present costs of compliance with the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, administrative rules adopted thereunder, and Operating Permit No. 00065. DEQ is proposing a bond increase of \$46,990,653 (from \$112,153,980 to \$159,144,633 assuming the bond release proposed above). A major portion of the bond increase is the result of a change in the estimated interest and inflation rates used to calculate the long-term water treatment component of the reclamation bond. The proposed bond increase also reflects increased costs of equipment and personnel. **Comments on the proposed bond increase must be received by DEQ no later than November 4, 2016.**

Requests for a hearing on the proposed bond release, requests for copies of the bond calculation associated with the five year comprehensive bond review, comments on the proposed bond release, and any questions should be directed to Herb Rolfes, Operating Permit Section Supervisor, Hard Rock Mining Bureau, Department of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901, (406) 444-3841 or e-mail at hrolfes@mt.gov. The proposed bond calculation may also be viewed at DEQ offices located at 1520 E. 6th Ave., in Helena, MT.